

# **Policy for Statues, Monuments, Fountains And Other Site Features on the State of Iowa Capitol Complex**

Iowa State Capitol Planning Commission  
Spring 2008

*The goal of this policy is to provide the Capitol Planning Commission and the Iowa Department of Administrative Services with a framework for the review, acceptance and appropriate siting of landscape features such as statues, monuments, fountains, memorials, plazas, and works of art that honor Iowa's history and culture.*

## **SECTION I – PURPOSE**

Landscape features on the Iowa State Capitol Grounds are important as public art and often as memorials to important patriotic, cultural, or historic persons, events or educational and cultural concepts. Appropriately designed and located, such features add significantly to the dignity and beauty of the Capitol Complex. While serving this function they can also provide a terminus or focal point for a view; help organize and give interest and scale to an open space; and even help to define an area.

The Capitol Planning Commission, as the statutorily designated advisor to the Governor, Legislature, and Department of Administrative Services regarding the design and development of the Capitol Complex, is committed to developing the Capitol Complex for the accessible use and enjoyment by generations of Iowans and visitors to our State.

This policy is intended to implement the part of the Capitol Planning Commission's statutory responsibilities concerning the Site Feature and maintenance of landscape features such as public art, statues, memorials, and others as permitted by these rules promulgated pursuant to Iowa Code § 18A which states, in part, "advise upon the locations of statues, fountains and monuments." In particular the purpose of these rules is to ensure that the Commission's recommendations are governed by clear criteria to the end that proposals are consistently, fully and fairly considered.

## **SECTION II – DEFINITIONS**

1. "Art Site Feature" means an original work of art created by and/or supervised by an artist in any medium that has aesthetic value or expresses symbolic meaning. A work of art includes but is not limited to murals, statues, relief or other sculpture. It also means monuments, fountains, arches, or other structures or spaces designed as a work of art. Landscape items include the artistic placement of natural materials and other functional features designed as a work of art. Works of art may be temporary as well as permanent. This definition shall not include objects that are mass-produced from a standard design or reproductions of original art works; decorative, ornamental or functional elements, which are designed by the project architect; landscape architecture and landscape gardening except where these elements are an integral part of the artwork by the artist; directional elements such as super graphics, signage, or color coding except where these elements are integral parts of the original work of art; logos or corporate identity. An example of an Art Site Feature would be the Lincoln and Tad monument or the Pinnacle.

2. "Capitol Grounds" means the exterior Public Space on the Iowa State Capitol Complex.

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3. "Commission" means the Iowa State Capitol Planning Commission, created pursuant to Iowa Code §18A. The mailing address of the Commission is 1305 East Walnut, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319.
4. "Committee" means the Site Features Advisory Committee, the members of which shall be appointed by the Commission chair person. The committee members shall include two commission members and a non-commission public member. The DAS Director's designee and the Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs' designee shall also serve as members. The two director designees and the public member shall have expertise in the fields of art and design.
5. "Department" means the Department of Administrative Services. The mailing address of the Department is 1305 East Walnut, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319.
6. "Director" means the director of the Department of Administrative Services. The Director, or the Director's designee, is a member of the Commission and serves as its secretary.
7. "Evaluation Criteria for 'Art Site Features'" means the aesthetic merits and meaning of the art work, the artistic achievements and recognition of the artist, and the quality of craftsmanship and materials. A work of art will also be evaluated in context of the State of Iowa's collection of works of art and public art
8. "Iowa State Capitol Complex" means the buildings and grounds located within the contiguous geographical perimeter of state-owned property where the State Capitol building is situated. "Master Plan" means the master plan for the Iowa State Capitol Complex as provided for in Iowa Code § 18A.
9. "Minimal Impact Site Feature" means a Site Feature having moderate or minimal impact on its surroundings. The impact of a Site Feature is determined by the combined effect of its subject matter, size, placement, and the degree to which it affects the environment into which it is set. Examples on the Capitol Grounds include memorial trees, plaques and benches, such as the "Trees Forever" tree and the Martin Luther King Tree.
10. "Public Space" means public space as defined in Iowa Code § 18A.
11. "Significant Impact Site Feature" means a Site Feature having a significant impact on its surroundings. The impact of a Site Feature is determined by the combined effect of its subject matter, size, placement, and the degree to which it affects the environment into which it is set. Examples on the Capitol Grounds include the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the World War II Memorial Plaza, and the Lincoln and Tad monument.
12. "Site Feature" means, from the date of the adoption of these rules, any change on the Capitol Grounds in the physical configuration of the landscape or the placement of an object thereon, which change or object is intended to be an Art Site Feature or recognize patriotic, educational, cultural, or historical persons, events, or concepts. General references to "Site Features" in this policy does not include Temporary Impact Site Features.
13. "Site Feature Sponsor" means an individual or group submitting a proposal seeking to place a Site Feature on the Capitol Grounds.
14. "Temporary Impact Site Feature" means a Site Feature that is intended to be placed on the Capitol Grounds for less than a year and for which Commission consideration is not required.

**SECTION III – GOVERNING PRINCIPLES**

Site Features on the Capitol Grounds shall:

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1. Preserve and enhance the dignity, beauty, architectural integrity, and the public use and enjoyment of the Iowa State Capitol Complex.
2. Protect the most scenic public views to and from the Capitol.
3. Be sensitive to the diversity of adjacent neighborhoods and the connection of the Iowa State Capitol Complex to its neighbors and the city of Des Moines.
4. Accommodate pedestrian and motorized and non-motorized vehicular traffic that promote public accessibility where appropriate.
5. Be consistent with the Iowa State Capitol Master Plan.
6. Be nonpartisan.
7. Provide an enriching experience that illuminates and celebrates common values and broadens understanding of Iowa's heritage and culture.
8. Not identify financial contributors to the Site Feature unless authorized by executive order of the governor or joint resolution of the General Assembly.
9. Comply with applicable Americans with Disability Act standards.
10. Honor individuals or groups of individuals only after the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the individual's death or the death of the last surviving member of a group.
11. Honor an event during the lifetime of those who engaged in it only after the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the event.

**SECTION IV – CONSIDERATION OF SITE FEATURE PROPOSALS**

**1. General Information -**

- (a) The general concept and subject matter;
- (b) Whether the Site Feature is intended to be displayed permanently or for less than 1 year;
- (c) How, in general, the Site Feature will conform to each of the Section III Governing Principles or a rationale as to the inapplicability of any Principle;
- (d) A suggested site or sites on the Capitol Grounds;
- (e) The anticipated cost including development and Site Feature costs, any required modifications and improvements to sidewalks and utilities, and, if a Significant Impact Site Feature, a minimum of 10 percent of the total project cost for a maintenance and conservation endowment.
- (f) The projected timeline, including key milestones for the project from the date of Director approval;
- (g) The maintenance and conservation plan to ensure its continued quality, beauty and function in the future.
- (h) The planned sources of funding, funds raised to date, and whether approval of contributor recognition signage will be sought from the Governor or the General Assembly, if applicable;
- (i) (Optional) A single contact person including their relationship to the Site Feature.
- (j) How would you classify this Site Feature?
  - Significant Impact Site Feature
  - Minimal Impact Site Feature
  - Art Site Feature
  - Temporary Impact Site Feature

**2. Director's Categorical Review** - The Director, upon determining the proposal complies with the requirements of subsection (1), shall determine the appropriate Site Feature category applicable to the proposal. Those determined to be proposals for Significant Impact Site Features shall be referred to the Commission with the Director's recommendation for disposition, if any. Proposals determined by the Director to be Minimal Impact Site Features or Temporary Impact Site Features shall be evaluated by the Director without referral to the Commission. The Director shall regularly submit a report of all Site Feature proposal dispositions occurring since the Commission's last meeting.

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**3. Consideration of Proposals for Significant Impact Site Features:** Upon receiving a Significant Impact Site Feature proposal, the Commission shall determine if the proposal should be referred to the Committee for evaluation and recommendation. If so referred, the Committee shall investigate and evaluate the proposal based on the Governing Principles stated in Section III and make a report to the Commission with a recommendation for further action. Upon receipt of the Committee's report, the Commission may re-refer the matter to the Committee for further consideration, defer further consideration to a subsequent meeting, or submit its recommendation to the Director. No proposal shall be denied without giving the Site Feature Sponsor an opportunity to appear before the Commission and advocate for the proposal. The Commission may include in its recommendation such conditions, considerations, and rationale as it deems appropriate to its advice. The Commission shall review and make recommendations concerning a final agreement before such agreement approving a Significant Impact Site Feature between the State and a Site Feature Sponsor is executed.

**4. Commission Guidelines** – As a guide for Site Feature Sponsors and other stakeholders, the Commission will consider the following in applying its Governing Principles:

- (a) **Setting.** The space surrounding a Site Feature should provide a setting that is compatible and supportive. In turn, the Site Feature in its setting should be supportive of the surrounding design and public functions, including any applicable part of the Master Plan.
- (b) **Size and scale.** There should be coordination between the size and scale of the Site Feature and its setting.
- (c) **Relationship to existing Site Features.** The Site Feature should be of such size, scale and material as to minimize interference with any existing work, feature or building.
- (d) **Design Description.** In proposing a design for a Site Feature there should be a description of how the proposed design considers and responds to each of the following:
  - (i) Legibility and meaning. The intended message should be clear and understandable and convey meaning that will have significance to future generations. Art Site Features will be given greater flexibility in applying this criterion.
  - (ii) Approachability and accessibility. Site Features should be designed to be accessible and engaging because they are often a gathering point and therefore should be designed to meet all applicable Americans with Disability Act standards.
- (e) **Materials.** Materials should be chosen for durability, visibility and maintainability and in general should be aesthetically consistent with materials used elsewhere in structures throughout the Capitol Complex. Art Site Features will be given greater flexibility in applying this criterion.
- (f) **Evening illumination.** Outdoor Site Features may be enhanced with night illumination integral to its design. Such illumination should not conflict with other Site Features, open space, buildings and their inhabitants and the overall landscape, and should consider energy efficiency and light pollution all of which will be considered when designing the maintenance and conservation endowment fund.
- (g) **Completion.** Site Features that by their nature cannot be completed at the time of initial installation (such as those to which names or dates are to be added over time) are discouraged.
- (h) **Text and inscriptions.** Lists of any kind are discouraged and those relating to financial contributors are prohibited unless authorized by gubernatorial or legislative action. Any text or inscriptions should be meaningful to the broadest possible audience and should include an interpretive component explaining the purpose of the Site Feature. Art Site Features will be given greater flexibility in applying this criterion.

**5. Consideration of Proposals for Minimal Impact Site Features.** If the Director determines a proposal qualifies as a Minimal Impact Site Feature the Director may consider the proposal without seeking the Commission's review and recommendation. In all other respects the process and criteria for consideration shall be the same as provided in these rules for Significant Impact Site Features.

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**6. Consideration of Proposals for Temporary Impact Site Features.** The Director shall have discretion to approve or disapprove Temporary Impact Site Features pursuant to such rules as may be promulgated by the Department. The Department may, but is not required to, consult with the Commission on proposals.

**7. Work of Art Evaluation Criteria.** Evaluation criteria for works of Art shall be used to consider an “Art Site Feature.”

**SECTION V – RELOCATION/DEACCESSION**

1. The Commission shall be consulted prior to the relocation of a Site Feature, as shall the Site Feature Sponsor, the artist, if any, and interested parties to the extent such notification and consultation is practical.

2. The Department reserves the right to remove any Site Features located on the Iowa State Capitol Complex.